

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /197 W
----- 031126

R 210955Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6973

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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EMO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA, EEC

SUBJECT: JAPAN-EC: OHIRA/SOAMES MEETING

SUMMARY. ECON/COUNS MET SEPT 20 WITH OYAKE (HEAD, ECONOMIC INTEGRA-
TION DIV, FONOFF) TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF MEETING BETWEEN FOMIN
OHIRA AND EC VICE PRES SOAMES AND OF OTHER JAPAN-EC BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING GATT MINISTERIAL MEETING. FOLLOWING ARE
HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

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1. OYAKE BEGAN BY REVIEWING CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT GOJ-EC BILATERAL TALKS IN PAST: (A) DISCUSSION OF "ORDERLY MARKETING" ISSUE BETWEEN JAPANESE AND EC TRADE OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS DURING DECEMBER 1972; (B) DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DEPUTY DIR-GEN OF FONOFF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU (NISHIDA) AND COMMUNITY AND MEMBER STATE OFFICIALS IN EUROPE DURING FEBRUARY; (C) DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FONOFF DEPUTY VICE MINISTER TSURUMI AND COMMUNITY OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS DURING MARCH; (D) FOMIN OHIRA'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS IN MAY; AND (E) JAPAN-EC DISCUSSIONS IN JUNE DURING WHICH ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR OHIRA-SOAMES TOKYO MEETING.

2. OYAKE SAID ONE OF MAIN PURPOSES OF OHIRA-SOAMES MEETING WAS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO OFFICIALS TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER PERSONALLY. IN THAT RESPECT, HE SAID MEETING WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, NOTING THAT RAPPORT BETWEEN OHIRA AND SOAMES WAS OBVIOUS AND IMPRESSIVE. RE SUBSTANCE OF MEETING, OYAKE SAID DISCUSSION WAS LIMITED TO GENERALITIES. SOAMES COMMENTED ON NEED FOR JAPAN TO AVOID CONCENTRATION ON SPECIFIC EXPORT PRODUCTS IN EC MARKET AND OHIRA NOTED THAT JAPAN WAS TRYING TO DIVERSIFY ITS EXPORTS TO EUROPE IN EFFORT TO FORESTALL TYPE OF PROBLEMS THAT HAD DEVELOPED IN U.S.-JAPAN TRADE. OHIRA AND SOAMES ALSO REAFFIRMED NEED FOR CONTINUING CLOSE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN EC AND JAPAN, NOTING IN THAT RESPECT THAT FONOFF DEPUTY VICE MINISTER TSURUMI WOULD VISIT BRUSSELS IN NOVEMBER FOR FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMUNITY OFFICIALS.

3. ACCORDING TO OYAKE, OHIRA AND SOAMES DID NOT DISCUSS SPECIFIC TRADE PROBLEMS; HOWEVER, SUCH TALKS CONDUCTED AT LOWER LEVELS (TSURUMI-WELLENSTEIN AND OYAKE-MEYNELL). WITH RESPECT TO PROBLEM OF ITALIAN IMPORT QUOTAS ON JAPANESE TAPE RECORDERS, OYAKE SAID IT WAS INTENTION OF JAPAN AND EC THAT THIS MATTER ULTIMATELY WOULD BE SETTLED THROUGH INDUSTRY-TO-INDUSTRY ARRANGEMENT AND THAT CURRENT GATT ARTICLE XIX ACTION WOULD BE TERMINATED. OYAKE ALSO SAID IT WAS INTENTION OF GOJ AND BENELUX GOVERNMENTS TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS IN AUTUMN ON LATTERS' IMPORT RESTRAINTS AGAINST JAPANESE ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS.

4. RE GENERAL QUESTION OF JAPAN-EC TRADE BALANCE, OYAKE OBSERVED THAT JAPAN'S SURPLUS THIS YEAR IS RUNNING AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN 1972 (I.E. APPROX DOLS 1.3 BILLION). WHILE PICTURE VARIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMONG EC MEMBER STATES, OYAKE NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT THERE HAD BEEN MARKED IMPROVEMENT RECENTLY IN JAPANESE IMPORTS FROM U.K. (EMBASSY IS COMPILING COMPREHENSIVE FIGURES FOR JAPAN-EC TRADE OVER LAST FEW YEARS AND WILL SEND SEPARATELY). IN FURTHER CONNECTION WITH JAPAN-U.K. TRADE, MAY BE NOTED THAT U.K. OPENED IMPRESSIVE NEW TRADE CENTER IN TOKYO ON SEPT 20.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO12283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730917/aaaaamgc.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN-EC: OHIRA/SOAMES MEETING SUMMARY. ECON/COUNS MET SEPT 20 WITH OYAKE (HEAD, ECONOMIC INTEGRA-
TAGS: ETRD, JA, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005